

## ***REMARKS***

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed January 11, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 3-15, 20-41 and 47, as amended, are respectfully requested.

### **1. Present Status of Patent Application**

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 3-15, 20-41 and 47 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 9-10, 30-31 and 36 are amended and claims 42-46 are canceled. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

### **2. Claim Objections**

#### **a. Claims 42-46**

Claim 42 is objected to “under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper independent form for not differing substantially subject matter of a previous independent claim 37. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper independent form.” Claims 43-46 are objected to as being dependent upon claim 42.

Claims 42-46 are canceled. Accordingly, the rejection to these claims is rendered moot.

#### **b. Claims 9, 10, 30, 31 and 36**

Claims 9, 10, 30, 31 and 36 are objected to because of the following informalities. Claims 9 and 10 are not ended by a period (see MPEP 608.01(m)). Claims 30, 31 and 36 are objected to because after “the steps of” the punctuation mark “;” should be replaced by “:” in these claims.

Applicants amend claims 9 and 10 herein to add the required period at the end of the claims. Claims 30, 31 and 36 are amended to add the “:” punctuation mark. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 9, 10, 30, 31 and 36 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants wish to clarify that the amendment to claims 9, 10, 30, 31 and 36 are not made in response to any rejection made by the Examiner during prosecution of the instant case based upon prior art of record. Furthermore, the amendment to claims 9, 10, 30, 31 and 36 do not narrow the scope of these claims in any manner. The amendment to claims 9, 10,

30, 31 and 36 merely correct an apparent typographical error. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this editorial correction to these claims.

3. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 15, 20-29, 32-35, 37-41 and 47. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's conclusion that the subject matter of claims 3-14, 30, 31, 36, 42 and 47 are allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 3-15, 20-41 and 47, are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



**Raymond W. Armentrout**  
**Reg. No. 45,866**